

## A NEW MYRMECOPHILOUS MILLIPED FROM MEXICO

BY RALPH V. CHAMBERLIN

*University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, Utah*

Specimens of the new polydesmid diplopod described below were received recently from Dr. Alfonso Dampf, Professor of Applied Entomology of the Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Biologicas, Mexico City, D.F. Concerning these millipeds Dr. Dampf writes: "Diplods marching with military precision in a column of migrating ants are not often seen. I collected therefore the 15 specimens which I saw during a half hour's watch in the citrus grove of Sayula. The ants [a black species of an army ant, identified by Dr. Neal A. Weber as *Eciton (Labidus) praedator* F. Smith] were traveling up hill in the undulating terrain of the grove in the morning in a fast running stream 4 to 6 individuals deep, some carrying insect remains. The diplopods, plainly visible on account of their white color, were moving slowly, but without any stop, in the center of the column. No ant paid any attention to them. As the ants were running so fast, sooner or later the last of the ants would pass one by one the slow diplopods which have then to follow the same trail by smell in case they were to get to the new nest. Our time was limited and we could not stay longer to see what would happen to these ant pets."

The adult male holotype and allotype, and some of the paratypes are retained by the author, the others being returned to Prof. Dampf.

*Yucodesmus dampfi* Chamberlin, new species

The dorsum is naturally pale yellow in color, with the venter and legs white or nearly so; but older individuals may appear brown from dirt adherent to the granula and tubercles.

Vertex and frons of head densely granulo-tubercular, elsewhere smooth; antennae with fifth joint large, moderately widening clavately from base to distal end, obviously longer than the fourth and sixth articles together, these two being relatively small.

Horizontal rim of the collum divided into the usual 12 areas by radiating sulci, the margin presenting 12 corresponding, low crenatures; surface granulo-tubercular, the tubercles arranged in two

transverse series, an anterior one across middle composed of six tubercles, and a posterior one composed of four.

The other tergites also granulo-tubercular, the large tubercles being arranged in the usual four rows, with three contiguous tubercles in each row. Keels long in the transverse direction; those on second to fourth segments with three lobes or crenatures, the fifth and succeeding one with four; the poriferous cone projecting about the third lobe. Lobes on 19th keels but weakly indicated. Anal tergite deeply notched at middle of caudal margin and with two lobes on each side toward base.

The gonopods of the male with telopodite as shown in the accompanying figure 1. Its form is distinctive, e.g., in the geniculate lower prong.

Length, about 6 mm.

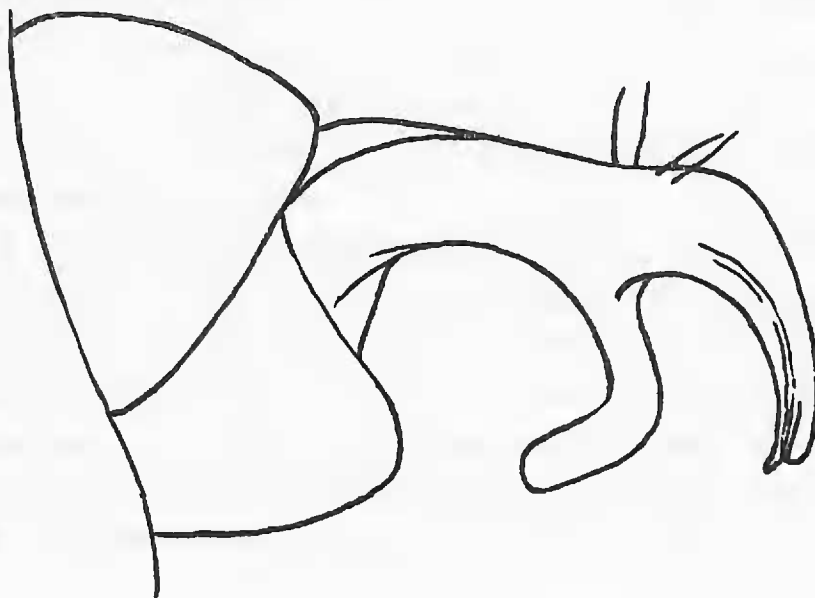


Fig. 1. *Yucodesmus dampfi* Chamberlin, n. sp. Right gonopod of male, aspect a little ventrad of caudad.

*Locality.* MEXICO: STATE OF VERACRUZ, about 30 km. west of the port of Veracruz on the Hacienda Sayula. Fifteen specimens, mostly immature, taken September 24, 1946, by Dr. Alfonso Dampf.

The Hacienda Sayula is situated "in the flat coastal plain probably not more than 5 m. above sea level; swampy grassland with patches of trees and bushes; the specimens were collected in a citrus grove on the northern side of the hill with the administration buildings, at 8 o'clock in the morning, the weather somewhat cloudy, in a stream of army ants which were migrating up hill."